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Newsletter

GRADUATE SCHOOL ★ USDA



To the Faculty, Committee Members and others associated with the Graduate School:

THE SPEECHES WERE SHORT,

the jokes lively, the food excellent, and the weather, that evening, especially cool and pleasant for the drive to the University of Maryland where we held our annual faculty dinner, September 10. A number of you have told me how much you enjoyed the informal atmosphere and getting together with fellow teachers and committee members. I wish it had been possible for everyone associated with GS to attend.

Toastmaster Byron T. Shaw handled the program with a light touch. We were cordially welcomed to the Maryland campus by Dean Harold F. Cotterman. We learned a good deal about the various departments of GS in the brief reports given by: Ralph E. Hodgson for Biological Sciences; H. F. Dorn for Mathematics and Statistics; Henry Donovan for Office Techniques and Operations; Henry Stevens for Physical Sciences; J. K. McClarren for Languages and Literature; Earl Loveridge for Public Administration; Carl Taylor for Social Sciences; and F. J. Sette for Technology.

When Secretary Benson was unable to be with us as he had planned, Robert M. Salter, chief of the Soil Conservation Service and a member of the General Administration Board, spoke in his place. I took the opportunity to report on "The State of the Graduate School."

And again I want to express my gratitude to all of you who helped to make the dinner a success -- those who took part in the program and the committee on arrangements: Chairman Ralph Shaw, Henry Donovan, John H. Thurston, Harry C. Trelogan, Marshall S. Wright, and O. B. Conaway Jr.

BOSTON U'S TRIAL RUN

of three courses for Federal employees in New England last winter proved so successful that the program is being expanded to 10 courses this coming year.

The 1953-54 program was developed August 27-28 in a conference between officials representing BU and various Federal installations in the area. Assistant Director O. B. Conaway represented GS in the discussions.

Courses to be offered are: Federal Administrative Procedure, Federal Personnel Procedure, Federal Auditing Procedure, Principles and Techniques of Office and Management Work, Official Report Writing, Supervision of Personnel, Position Classification, Federal Accounting, Hospital Administration, Systems for Government Reports and Forms Management.

A MEANINGFUL NEW CLAUSE

appears in the revised regulations governing GS as recently issued by Secretary Benson. It is a part of the last sentence of the next to the last paragraph, which heretofore has read:

"Under authority of the above mentioned Acts, the School shall continue to use the facilities and resources of the Department for the purposes named above providing that the cost of operation in addition to such facilities and resources shall be borne by the fees paid by students or by other means not requiring support from Federal funds."

The new phrase, inserted after "other means" reads: "such as voluntary contributions, bequests, grants, and other means, provided such funds are acceptable to the Board and are utilized in accord with the regulations governing the Graduate School as set forth in this document."

Now that phrase may mean a lot. It grants authority to GS to receive from well wishing friends, foundations, or from other similar sources, funds with which to support appropriate activities that could not possibly be supported from regular registration fees.

For example, a Graduate School Development Fund would enable us to support more of the recommendations that come from employees -- more trial courses, more seminars, more lecture series in line with employee interests.

Or we might receive bequests of sizeable amounts with which to support one or more fellowships for employees qualified and selected for special study at an educational institution especially qualified to provide what that employee most needs to round out his training for a particular assignment. Or such a bequest might be applied to employees of land-grant institutions who would be selected as trainees in certain Federal laboratories or offices.

Or we might expect to be the recipients of grants by foundations for specified purposes.

I have a lot of faith in these possibilities and expect to see some developments along these lines -- maybe soon, maybe only after much further exploration.

A MAP SHOWING OUR CLASSROOMS,

this year, must be a large one of greater Washington. We have classes at the Agricultural Research Center and Plant Industry Station, and at three locations in the Department of the Navy -- the Naval Research Laboratory, the Naval Powder Factory, and the Bureau of Ships. Students in 11 courses in meteorology attend classes at the Weather Bureau at 23rd and M streets N. W. The class in Watercolor Painting is meeting in the studio of Artist James V. Cupoli, 802 F. Street, N. W.

MAKING AN INDEFINITE PERMANENT

is how T. Roy Reid described the decision of the General Administration Board to appoint me director of GS. The change in my status from "acting" to director came when L. H. Rohrbaugh on leave since January, 1952 severed his ties with GS because he wishes to continue in foreign service.

My "permanent" status with GS is still "indefinite", however. Secretary Benson has announced that the United States will nominate me for the post of Director General of FAO at the November-December Rome Conference of that organization. Since nomination does not mean election, I shall continue "indefinite" until the decision of the conference is known.

In announcing Dr. Rohrbaugh's resignation, Mr. Reid pays a high tribute to his work as GS Director. This covered seven years beginning in 1943 when he served a year while Eldon Johnson was on leave of absence. It was resumed in 1945 when Dr. Rohrbaugh succeeded Dr. Johnson in the post. During the two-year interval Dr. Rohrbaugh had served for a period as assistant to Mr. Reid in the Office of Personnel and had taken an assignment with an UNRRA mission to Greece.

Dr. Rohrbaugh's administration of GS was marked by high enrollment, which reached a peak of 7800 students in 1945, by refinements in the fiscal policy, and by new and stimulating programs. Among these were two outstanding lecture series: "What We Learned in Public Administration During the War; and "The Outlook for Agricultural Marketing". This second one was inspired by passage of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946. Following passage of the Technical Administration Act in 1949 Dr. Rohrbaugh took the leadership in setting up a seminar for training Point IV personnel and was a member of the first seminar.

"Lew Rohrbaugh," notes Mr. Reid, "has a way of giving energy and warmth to proposals that enhances their logical appeal. He applies the principles of his Quaker Faith to his job as well as to other aspects of his life."

Dr. Rohrbaugh's many friends in GS will be glad to hear that he is making an excellent recovery from a recent illness and expects to be back on the job as Director of the TCA program in Iraq by the first of October.

SUBSTANTIAL PROGRAMS FOR OLDER EMPLOYEES

are offered by only two Federal departments (HEW, USDA) according to an informal survey by O. B. Conaway, assistant director of GS. This and other pertinent information is covered in a chapter on educational programs of the Federal government for its older employees which Dr. Conaway has written for inclusion in the handbook, "Education for Later Maturity" under the editorship of Dr. Wilma Donahue of the University of Michigan.

The outstanding program to date for older employees of the Federal government, in Dr. Conaway's opinion, was a 16-week series of dinner meetings that made up the seminar at HEW on "Living in the Later Years." Planned by Clark Tibbets, USPHS, the discussions were led by specialists. They dealt with biological and psychological aging, the maintenance of mental health, income, employment opportunities, hobbies, and other creative activities.

In his article Dr. Conaway notes that a number of GS courses are planned with the needs of older employees in mind. One of the most popular along this line is the course, "Managing Personal Finances." It is taught by C. M. Mouser, who holds an MA from Louisiana State University, and is chief clerk of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry.

AMONG OURSELVES

George W. Albee, instructor in General Psychology, is spending this winter at the University of Helsinki, Finland teaching on a Fulbright fellowship.

Marshall S. Wright's retirement was shortlived. He has accepted an invitation to spend some time in the factory and offices of the Zeiss-Aerotopograph Corporation in Munich preparatory to opening up offices here or in New York after the first of the year. He expects to be back by November 15.

Foreign assignments in line with her work for the U. S. Geological Survey will keep Esther Aberdeen out of the city this coming year. Louis C. Peltier, who holds a Ph.D. from Harvard, is teaching Dr. Aberdeen's class in "Physiography of the Western United States." Maurice J. Terman, also of the U. S. Geological Survey, has joined our faculty to teach "Elements of Physical Geology", formerly taught by Meyer Rubin. Mr. Terman is a candidate for Ph.D. at Columbia University.

Another new staff member is Harold J. Toner, who is taking over the courses in metallurgy formerly given by Blake Loring. Mr. Toner who holds a master's degree from the University of Wisconsin is formerly assistant professor of metallurgy at the University of Oklahoma.

New instructors in shorthand are Harriet Stern, who is giving review of Gregg, and Edith Weltner, who teaches speed writing at 110 to 130 words. Miss Stern is with the Office of Education. Miss Weltner with the Atomic Energy Commission. Miss Stern replaces Vivian W. Flinchum who has gone with her husband to a new home in Portsmouth, Ohio. Miss Weltner takes over the course formerly taught by E. Donald Bell, whose work with the Southern Railway System calls for more traveling than in previous years.

G. E. Hilbert, Chief of the Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry, has joined the departmental committee on Public Administration.

Robert Hall is instructor of the course, "Introduction to Official Writing", given at the Naval Powder Factory, Indian Head, Md. Mr. Hall is technical editor for Forest Service.

Willard G. Torpey, Personnel Officer at the Naval Research Laboratory and a former GS teacher, is the author of "Public Personnel Administration" a recent release of D. Van Nostrand Co., New York. This book is an analysis of personnel operations in Federal, State, and local government.

Sincerely,


P. T. Leardon
Director